Abstract

1   A method of the grooming traffic signals through a composite switch is disclosed that enables

2   a traffic signal that is being transmitted between any two constituent switches to be re-routed through

3   the composite switch without a hit (*i.e.*, the dropping, replacing, inserting, or repeating of at least one

4   bit in the traffic signal). This applies whether the constituent switches are adjacent in the composite

5   switch or not. The composite switch in accordance with the illustrative embodiment comprises

6   multiple routes between adjacent constituent switches and incorporates a mechanism that compensates

7   for differential propagation delays along the routes. And still furthermore, the composite switch in

8   accordance with the illustrative embodiment comprises alternative routes through different constituent

9   switches and incorporates a mechanism that compensates for differential propagation delays through

10   the constituent switches.